conspiracy and had herself and Hsien Feng's Empress appointed co-regents. Much more able and aggressive than the other regent, she dominated the court. Her son, usually known by the title of his reign, Tung Chih, proved active but dissolute, and died in 1875, not long after assuming the reigns of government. Thereupon his mother, in a decidedly high-handed manner, placed on the throne a child who is known by the title of his reign period, Kuang Hsu. Tz'u Hsi not only held the reins while Kuang Hsu was a minor, but was the real power after he attained his majority. Upon Kuang Hsii?s death, in 1908, by designation of this same masterful woman, now aged, another minor was installed on the throne, but the old Empress survived Kuang Hsu only a few hours. More vigorous as a ruler than any of the Emperors since Ch'ien Lung, Tz'u Hsi was superstitious, was guilty of many major errors, was often subject to indecision, and never fully comprehended the significance of the new age into which the Middle Kingdom was being pushed by the Occident. Yet she was ambitious, loved power and money, possessed great physical vitality, had shrewd insight into the strength and the weaknesses of men in high places, and used tact and skill in attaining her ends. She knew a good deal about Chinese literature and was a calligrapher of more than average ability. /

THE SUPPRESSION OF REBELLIONS BY THE AID OF CHINESE LEADERSHIP

The dynasty would have collapsed had it not been for loyal Chinese. It was to Chinese, chief among them a scholar-statesman from the province of Hunan, Tseng Kuo-fan, that the Empire mainly owed the suppression of the Tʸai P'ing Rebellion. Tseng,

although by training not a military man, and handicapped both by the jealousy of other officials and by an imperial administrative and military system which made it difficult to construct and finance an army strong enough to put down so formidable an outbreak, organized a force which, by what were often halting and - blundering steps, crushed the revolt. Nanking, the T'ai P'ing citadel, was captured in 1864, and Hung Hsiu-ch'iian committed suicide a few weeks before its fall. The year 1865 saw the last effective forces dispersed.

Tseng was assisted by able lieutenants, among them one who